



## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN EUROPE

### BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS

#### MALTA: R&B SUPERSTAR AKON AND U.S. AMBASSADOR VISIT AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER

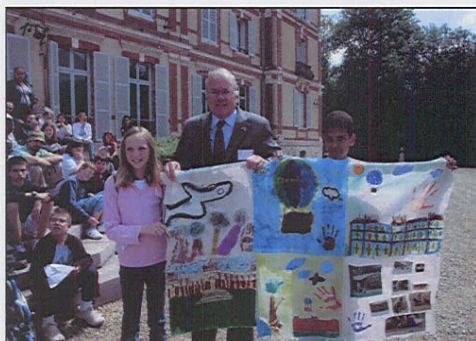


Ambassador Bordonaro and Pop Star Akon are greeted at the Marsa Open Center, July 27, 2007. [© Chris Sant Fournier, The Times newspaper]

Following a large MTV-sponsored concert in Malta, U.S. Ambassador to Malta Molly Bordonaro spoke with Akon about his commitment to helping the development of Africa and assisting refugees. At his request The U.S. Embassy in Valletta organized a visit to the Marsa Open Center to give Akon an

opportunity to meet the African Refugees currently in Malta. The visit highlighted the U.S. Government's commitment to assisting Malta with the problems it is currently facing with an increasing influx of immigrants seeking refugee status. Ambassador Bordonaro and Akon praised the Maltese Government's efforts to combat illegal immigration and to provide humanitarian assistance to immigrants.

#### FRANCE: U.S. AMBASSADOR REACHES OUT TO CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN



Ambassador Stapleton receives a handmade gift from the children at L'Envol camp, July 25, 2007. [Maulavé Patrick, U.S. Embassy Paris]

U.S. Ambassador to France Craig Roberts Stapleton visited the international summer camp "L'Envol" (take-off) for chronically ill children, an organization based on the concept of the "Hole in the Wall" camps created by actor/philanthropist Paul Newman. On their last day at camp, the children, representing a good cross-section of Paris youth, enjoyed a meal with the

Ambassador followed by a symbolic balloon release. The Ambassador donated several books in French about American history to the camp's library. He also continued a day of youth outreach with a visit to the Fontainebleau American Schools of Art.

#### KOSOVO: LEARNING TOLERANCE THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT YOUTH CAMP

The U.S. Office in Pristina launched its first ever camp for Kosovar Albanian, Serb, Turkish, and Bosniak children, ages 12-14, in Macedonia this week. Directed by English Language Fellow Molly Staeheli, the camp combines English classes, sports, arts activities and teacher training for 24 students and 4 teachers. With English as a neutral communication tool, the students are making personal connections with their peers from other ethnic communities. Teacher training classes emphasize building a sense of community in a multi-ethnic class. After intensive seminars in the morning, the teachers practiced their new tools when they team-taught English to mixed classes in the afternoon.



Campers play a fierce game of "Uno" with Camp Director, Molly Staeheli, August 19, 2007. [Laura Hochla, U.S. Office Pristina]



## NORWAY: VISITING CALIFORNIA SOCCER PLAYERS MEET NORWEGIAN SOCCER STAR



The U.S. soccer team Santa Barbara United visited the U.S. Embassy in Oslo as part of a youth outreach and sports diplomacy program. The 14 member team was in Norway to participate in the internationally renowned Norway Cup soccer tournament, which featured 30,000 youth players from 45 nations. Underscoring strong U.S.-Norway relations, the Norwegian national team sent 'Norway's Mia Hamm,' acclaimed soccer player Solveig Gulbrandsen, to sign autographs in the chancery and promote sports exchanges.

Above: Solveig Gulbrandsen with U.S. Ambassador to Norway Benson K. Whitney and the entire team from Santa Barbara, August 16, 2007. [Kjersti Ofstad, U.S. Embassy Oslo]

## FRANCE: VISITING NBA PLAYERS INSPIRE DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

The U.S. Embassy in Paris took advantage of the visit to France of a group of NBA basketball players, coaches, and recruiters to organize a well-received outreach to French youth from the underserved suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, a scene of unrest in fall 2005. The participating youth, ages 8-18, played with the athletes and spoke with them about their lives and careers. The vice-president of the Dallas Mavericks, himself originally from Senegal, led an inspiring discussion about overcoming obstacles, studying hard, and setting high goals.



Right: Visiting NBA stars inspire disadvantaged youth, July 31, 2007. [Fabienne Molle-Corazzi, U.S. Embassy Paris]

## BULGARIA: LADY OF GOSPEL, BLUES, AND JAZZ JANICE HARRINGTON PERFORMS FREE CONCERTS IN THREE CITIES



American singer Janice Harrington and her trio held concerts on the Black Sea coast and opened the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Bansko Jazz Festival in Bulgaria August 3, 4, and 8. This was the first time that a U.S. Government-sponsored jazz group has participated in the prestigious regional jazz festival. Ms. Harrington's inspiring performance electrified the crowds as they joined in the singing and the dancing.

Left: Gospel, Blues, and Jazz singer Janice Harrington, August 2007. [Plamen D. Ivanov, U.S. Embassy Sofia]

## DENMARK: U.S. AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUSRAT DJAHAN MOSQUE

U.S. Ambassador to Denmark James P. Cain spoke about religious freedom and tolerance at a celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first mosque built in Scandinavia. The Ambassador joined Danish Minister of Education and Church Bertel Haarder, and Danish Member of Parliament Kamal Qureshi, as guest speakers at the Nusrat Djahan Mosque in Hvidovre. The celebration was attended by over 150 guests, which included Scandinavia's first imam, Dyed Kamal Yousaf.



Ambassador Cain with Scandinavia's first imam Dyed Kamal Yousaf, August 17, 2007. [Richard M. Johannsen, U.S. Embassy Copenhagen]



## azerbaijan: 50 madrassa students receive graduation certificates

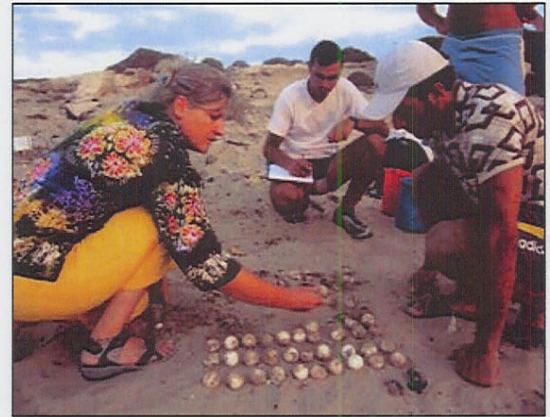


Chargé Lu presents a graduation certificate to madrassa student, August 2, 2007. [Mehdi Huseynquliyev, U.S. Embassy Baku]

The U.S. Embassy in Yerevan Chargé d'Affaires Donald Lu (Acting Ambassador) presented certificates and congratulated the 50 children who received U.S. Embassy microscholarships and successfully completed 10 months of English classes taught by the Azerbaijan English Teachers' Association on August 2. The children, who are all students in local madrassas, gave presentations on the U.S. political system, economy, history, culture and geography, sang songs, and performed short plays to demonstrate their newly acquired English-language skills. Some of the students were also presented with special prizes and certificates for their essays, class participation, and contributions in producing two newsletters.

## cyprus: save-ing the turtles with usaid support

Cyprus is privileged to provide nesting beaches for two species of endangered marine turtles—the loggerhead and the green turtle. As part of its efforts to build local capacity to protect the turtles and their habitat, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE) program has been working with local communities and experts throughout the summer 2007 season to clean beaches, raise public awareness, improve monitoring and data gathering skills, and promote conservation efforts. International turtle expert Monica Aureggi held hands-on training sessions on a wide range of topics, including determining nest locations, data gathering and recording, and nest excavation.



International turtle expert Monica Aureggi holds a hands-on training session, August 2007. [USAID]



University of Wisconsin alumni meet at the Ambassador's residence, August 16, 2007. [Kjersti Solberg Ofstad, U.S. Embassy Oslo]

## norway: u.s. ambassador encourages educational exchange

U.S. Ambassador to Norway Benson K. Whitney hosted a reception for University of Wisconsin Alumni members at his residence in Oslo on August 16. At the event, which was held as a part of the Ambassador's educational exchange campaign, the Ambassador urged the former Wisconsin graduates to encourage and assist Norwegian students who are considering a move across the Atlantic. Participants were able to volunteer as speakers for suitable events in the future or as mentors for students during the application process.

To learn more about public diplomacy activities of the Bureau of European Affairs please visit our website at <http://europe.state.gov> and visit the Public Diplomacy Monthly newsletter at [www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/newsletter](http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/newsletter)